

CLAIMS

1. Use of a polypeptide group, the amino acid sequence of which group confers restricted conformational flexibility, as a linking group to link binding units in a multivalent binding protein.
2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the polypeptide linking group comprises from 4 to 30 amino acid residues.
3. Use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the linking group comprises one or more proline residues.
4. Use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the linking group comprises an amino acid sequence selected from:
- S-S-S-A-S-A-S-S-A,
G-S-P-G-S-P-G, or
A-T-T-T-G-S-S-P-G-P-T.
5. A multivalent binding protein comprising a plurality of binding units linked by means of intervening polypeptide linker groups, the amino acid sequence of which linker group confers restricted conformational flexibility.
6. A protein according to claim 5 wherein the binding units comprise heavy chain variable domains derived from an immunoglobulin naturally devoid of light chains.
7. A protein according to claim 5 or claim 6 wherein the antigen binding units comprise heavy chain variable domains derived from a Camelid immunoglobulin.
8. A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 7 comprising a bivalent antigen binding protein.

9. A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 8 wherein the linker group comprises from 4 to 30 amino acid residues.
10. A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein the linker group comprises one or more proline residues.
11. A protein according to any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein the linker group comprises an amino acid sequence selected from:

S-S-S-A-S-A-S-S-A,
G-S-P-G-S-P-G, or
A-T-T-T-G-S-S-P-G-P-T.
12. Nucleotide sequences encoding for a multivalent binding protein of any one of claims 5 to 11.
13. An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence according to claim 12.
14. A host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 13.